

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The Title of the application has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

The amendment at page 39 corrects an obvious errors in chemical the structure of the compound over the first arrow. There should be an oxygen atom adjacent to the ClC(=O) group.

A substitute Abstract has been submitted.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete “-(CH₂)_n-CO₂R⁷” from the definition of R⁵.

Newly-added Claim 125 corresponds to Claim 8 written in independent form. Newly-added Claims 126 and 127 are supported by the specification as filed.

No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11, 14-86, 89, and 117-127 are now pending.

At the outset, Applicants would like to thank Examiner McKenzie for indicating that Claims 8, 14-56, 61-83, 85, and 86 are allowable. Favorable reconsideration of all of the claims is respectfully requested at this time.

Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for the helpful and courteous discussion held with their representative on November 25, 2003. During that discussion, the amendments to the claims presented above were discussed. As noted on the Examiner's Summary Record, the Examiner indicated that the amendments would obviate the rejection over the cited reference and Claim 89 would be favorably reconsidered.

In the amendments submitted above, Claim 1 has been amended to delete “-(CH₂)_n-CO₂R⁷” from the definition of R⁵. Claim 125 corresponds to Claim 8 written in independent form.

In view of the amendments submitted above, the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kleyman is believed to be moot. As discussed with the Examiner, Kleyman does not disclose the claimed compounds. Accordingly, withdrawal of that ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

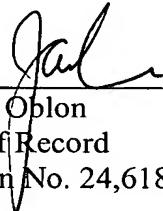
The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is also believed to be obviated by the amendments submitted above. The specification certainly provides a description of how to use the claimed compounds to block sodium channels. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The Title of the application has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. A substitute Abstract has been submitted. A description of the drawings is provided at page 12 of the specification.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

James J. Kelly, Ph.D.
Registration No. 41,504

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
NFO:JK/cja